

## **CHANGING THE VISUAL APPEARANCE OF INPUT DEVICES**

### **ABSTRACT**

Keycaps of a keypad or regions of a digitizer contain an electrophoretic ink. An  
5 electric field is passed through selected regions of the ink to form a desired graphic label  
visible at the exposed surface of the keycap or region. In some cases, conductors within  
the keypad or digitizer alter the ink. In other cases, the keycaps or regions are placed  
proximate a printer that alters the ink, such as to initialize a generic keypad for a given  
function. A keypad contains a MOD key to cycle between language-specific variants of  
10 a last-entered character. In some cases, the keys are altered remotely to change their  
displays, such as to update subscriber service information or advertising.